

AT Advisory Council

Minutes for the January 24, 2006 meeting held at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

Members Present:

Bill Ager, consumer

Kevin Ammons, consumer

Betsy Gruba, consumer, via telephone

Noah Hershkowitz, consumer

John Nousaine, ILC representative

Brent Odell, DPI representative

Meg Steimle, parent representative

Jackie Wells, consumer, via telephone

Members Not Present:

Cleo Eliason, DVR Representative

Council Bylaws

- Council members suggested a series of changes to the bylaws. Holly will make the changes and submit the final document to the Council members. A vote to accept the bylaws will be part of the April meeting agenda.

Election of Officers

- John Nousaine was elected the Chairperson of the Council.
- Noah Hershkowitz was elected the Vice Chairperson of the Council.
- Kevin Ammons was elected the Member At-Large of the Council.
- Each of these officers will comprise the membership of the standing Executive Committee.

Introduction of the Council Members to the WisTech Training Participants

- The Council members were introduced to AT practitioners from around the state. The practitioners were encouraged to contact Council members with suggestions and comments regarding the direction of WisTech.

Discussion Regarding Council Membership

- During the initial recruitment for Council members, three applications were accidentally overlooked. To rectify this mistake, the Council decided to recruit for consumer membership again.
- Holly will contact candidates from the earlier recruitment drive to request that they submit a resume for consideration in the new recruitment effort. Holly will prepare the recruitment materials and send out to organizations and entities in the community who work with people who may be interested in serving on the Council.

- The recruitment effort will be conducted through the end of March. Materials will be available electronically. Candidates can submit a written application, or contact Holly or Ralph to submit a verbal application.
- The Nomination Committee will review applications in April. The Council will add between one and three consumer members.

Data Collection for WisTech

- Council members received an update on the data collection tools being used to gather information from the WisTech programs. The data collection tools are based on the tool developed by the Association of Tech Act Programs (ATAP) for states to use until the data collection tool from the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is ready.
- WisTech device loan centers will use a simplified version of the ATAP tool to report on their program success until the RSA tool is available. WisLoan, Wisconsin's alternative financing program, is already using a tool developed by the federal government.
- Holly and Ralph will develop a tool for reporting on State Level activities.

Future Meetings

- The 2006 meetings are scheduled for: April 26 in Madison, August 15 in Stevens Point and November 15 in Green Bay. All meetings are open to the public and the agenda will be posted on the WisTech website.
- At each meeting, Holly or Ralph will report on the WisTech budget and the State Leadership Activities.
- Meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.